

Richard Nelson

**15 Lowell Street
Mays Landing, N.J. 08330**

April 1st, 2004

Federal Communications Commission
455 12th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: RM-10867-70

Dear Sirs:

I fully support RM-10867 proposal by the Amateur Radio Relay League regarding the re-structuring of the amateur radio service. I believe that allowing the HF operation by presently licensed Tech's and Tech plus amateurs will not diminish the amount of CW operation that is being utilized at present on the various amateur bands, but will open a whole new experience to these operators. Morse Code should not be a modern day requirement for testing to permit HF operation in the amateur radio service. With the changes that have been made using micro electronics, it is almost impossible to homebrew any type of modern transceiver other than a kit model. So the need for theory knowledge has been greatly reduced. I wonder how many amateur licensees that are active today could pass the present test's if they had to do it over, their question pool required knowledge of vacuum tubes, should we still require these questions today? So why should the new amateur's need to learn something that is no longer a worldwide mode of communication. Morse Code will never die, but it should be put on the back burner and not the key issue for the re-structuring.

If amateur radio is suppose to encourage the technical aspects of radio communication, how is a restrictive license such as the Technician class, going to enable this when the three most popular bands that they are allowed to work (2m, 6m, 70cm) give only limited access to long distance communications using almost all commercially manufactured equipment.

Thank You,
Richard Nelson W2ACY